REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed August 16, 2001, has been received and its contents carefully noted.

In order to advance the prosecution, the title has been amended, and claims 1 and 7 have been amended to more particularly point out the invention. Claims 5, 6 and 11-13 have been withdrawn due to the restriction requirement. Claims 1-4 and 7-10 are now pending in the application.

Drawings

Also, as part of Applicant's response, attached hereto are copies of Figures 3 and 5A with proposed drawing changes shown in red. The Examiner is requested to review and approve these changes which were made at his suggestion.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,081,551 to Etoh. It is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention is patentable over the art of record for the following reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

Claims 1 and 7 are amended such that specific frames or fields carried by the input moving picture signal are encoded by

only intra-picture coding (1, 2, 3 and 4 in Fig. 1) in subsidiary encoding.

In contrast thereto, Etoh has the intraframe/interframe coding selection switch 41 (Fig. 7 and column 9, lines 31 and 32), so that an input image in encoded by intra-picture or inter-picture coding.

Claims 1 and 7 are further amended such that the main and subsidiary bit streams are multiplexed so that the subsidiary bit streams for which the specific frames or fields have been encoded only by intra-picture coding are periodically inserted in the main bit stream for which the specific frames or fields have also been encoded by inter-picture coding.

The Examiner has alleged that the specific frames or fields encoded by the processor (Fig. 7) are also coded by the processor (Fig. 6) in Etoh.

The processor (Fig. 6), however, has the input selection switch 30 (column 9, lines 20-23), so that the specific frames or fields are encoded not by both but either the processor (Fig. 6) or the processor (Fig. 7) that encodes templates only, in Etoh. Therefore, it is impossible in Etoh to multiplex specific frames or fields that have been encoded by both processors (Figs. 6 and 7).

Moreover, the processor (Fig. 7) encodes templates (reference images, column 6, lines 21 and 22) by inter-picture

coding for extended motion compensation (column 14, lines 5-8).

In the present invention, the multiplexed bit stream is useful for channel switching, random access and high-speed search as discussed in page 13, lines 1 to 22.

Accordingly, the amended claims 1 and 7 and their dependent claims are different from Etoh and thus not anticipated by Etoh under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-4 and 7-10 to allow these claims and to find this application to be in allowable condition.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange for such a conference.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the title and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 9, 2001
Atty. Docket: P63212US0

Version with markings to show changes made.

In the Title:

Please amend the title of the application as follows:

--APPARATUS AND METHOD [OF CODING/DECODING MOVING PICTURE AND STORAGE MEDIUM FOR STORING CODED MOVING PICTURE DATA] FOR MULTIPLEXING INTRA-PICTURE CODING STREAM AND INTRA/INTER-PICTURE CODING STREAM--.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 7 as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for efficiently coding a moving picture signal, comprising:

a main coding processor to selectively encode an input moving picture signal by intra-picture coding or inter-picture coding in unit of frame or field output a main bit stream;

a subsidiary coding processor to encode specific frames or fields carried by the input moving picture signal by only intra-picture coding to output a subsidiary bit stream, the specific frames or fields being also coded by the inter-picture coding by the main coding processor; and

a multiplexer to multiplex the main and subsidiary bit streams so that the subsidiary bit streams for which the specific

frames or fields have been encoded only by the intra-picture coding by the subsidiary coding processor are periodically inserted in the main bit stream for which the specific frames or fields have also been encoded by the inter-picture coding by the main coding processor in the vicinity of a predetermined number of the frames or fields coded by the inter-picture coding, thus generating an output bit stream.

7. (Amended) A method of efficiently coding a moving picture signal, comprising the steps of:

selectively encoding an input moving picture signal by intra-picture coding or inter-picture coding in unit of frame or field to output a main bit stream;

encoding specific frames or fields carried by the input moving picture signal by only intra-picture coding to output a subsidiary bit stream, the specific frames or fields being also coded by the inter-picture coding by the [main coding processor] selective encoding; and

multiplexing the main and subsidiary bit streams so that the subsidiary bit streams for which the specific frames or fields have been encoded only by the intra-picture coding are periodically inserted in the main bit stream for which the specific frames or fields have also been encoded by the inter-picture coding in the vicinity of a predetermined number of the

frames or fields coded by the inter-picture coding, thus generating an output bit stream.